management-fiscal prudence and austerity measures, were recently issued in August, 1999, outlining various austerity measures relating to ban on creation of posts, ban on filling up of vacant posts and implementation of the existing instructions regarding reduction of posts.

VRS During Second Generation Reforms

167. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan for VRS will be the inthing during the Second Generation Reforms; and

(b) the details of Government bodies/institutions where Government propose to go for VRS in future after PSU banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As regards the policy on voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in public sector banks, Regulation 29 of the bank (Employees') Pesnion Regulations, 1995 provides for grant of pensionary benefits to those who voluntarily retire from bank's service on or after 1st November, 1993 after completing 20 years of qualifying service. Government is yet to frame a new VRS for them. However, views of Chief Executives of public sector banks have been sought on the desirability of introducing a Scheme which is in operation in public sector undertakings, with or without modifications.

Additional Courts for disposing off pending cases

†168. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any plan to set up additional courts and appoint additional judges to dispose off cases pending for a long time in all the major courts in the country; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.

sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts is 590 Permanent/ Additional Judges. It has been decided to create 28 new posts of Permanent/Additional Judges with effect from the dates these posts are actually filled up.

As regards increase of courts and appointment of additional judges in the subordinate judiciary, it is the responsiblity of the State Governments to create additional courts or apoint additional judges in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

Cooperative business under Companies Act

169. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring cooperative business under the Companies Act; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Government has recently constituted a Committee to examine framing a legislation which would enable incorporation of cooperatives as companies and conversion of existing cooperatives into companies, ensuring that the proposed legislation accommodates the unique elements of cooperative business within a regulatory framework similar to that of private limited companies. The decision whether to bring Cooperative business under the Companies Act would be taken after the report of the Committee is received.

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

170. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the delimitation of existing Parliamentary and State Assembly Constituencies in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to authorise Election Commission of India to take a final decision in this regard;